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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: GANG LUO ET AL. § Group Art Unit: 2172
Serial No.: 09/842,991 §
Filed: April 26, 2001 § Examiner: Chongshan Chen
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS § Atty. Dkt. No.: NCR.0038US
FOR PERFORMING HASH § (9558)
JOIN §

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Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FEB 2, 6 2004

Technology Center 2100

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED NOVEMBER 20, 2003

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 20, 2003, the applicants submit the following remarks regarding the above-identified application.

The claims have not been amended by this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

Date of Deposit: 2/19/2004

I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Dawn L. Thomas
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